

in the united states patent and trademark office

In re Application of: )  
)  
Stuart Todd RADER ) Prior Application:  
) Confirmation No.: 3861  
Rule 53(b) Continuation Application of )  
Application Serial No. 09/090,414 ) Group Art Unit: 2152  
)  
Filed: February 19, 2002 ) Examiner: M. Thompson  
)  
Original Appln. Filed: 06/04/1998 )  
)  
CPA Filed: 08/09/2001 )  
)  
For: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND )  
PRODUCT FOR TRANSMITTING )  
MULTIBYTE CHARACTERS IN A )  
NETWORK )

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of this continuation application, please amend this  
application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter  
thereof, and add new claims 17-28, as follows:

17. (New) A method for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, comprising:  
storing a fixed-byte format message with any characters represented by a fixed  
number of bytes;

converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message with any characters represented by one or more bytes depending on the character;  
obtaining an actual length of the multibyte format message; and  
transmitting information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message to a network node.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein converting further comprises translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the transmitting step comprises packaging the information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message in a HTTP request.

20. (New) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer to perform a method for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the method comprising:

storing a fixed-byte format message with any characters represented by a fixed number of bytes;

converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message with any characters represented by one or more bytes depending on the character;

obtaining an actual length of the multibyte format message; and

transmitting information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message to a network node.

21. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein converting further comprises translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

22. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the transmitting step comprises packaging the information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message in a HTTP request.

23. (New) An apparatus for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a fixed-byte format message with any characters represented by a fixed number of bytes;

a processor configured to convert the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message with any characters represented by one or more bytes depending on the character, and to obtain an actual length of the multibyte format message; and

a transmitter configured to transmit information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message to a network node.

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24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the processor is further configured to translate each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message in a HTTP request.

26. (New) A system for transmitting messages in a multi-node network, the system comprising:

means for storing a fixed-byte format message with any characters represented by a fixed number of bytes;

means for converting the fixed-byte format message into a multibyte format message with any characters represented by one or more bytes depending on the character;

means for obtaining an actual length of the multibyte format message; and

means for transmitting information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message to a network node.

27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the means for converting further comprises means for translating each character in the fixed-byte format message according to an UTF-8 encoding format.

28. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the means for transmitting comprises means for packaging the information reflecting the actual length of the multibyte format message with the multibyte format message in a HTTP request.

**REMARKS**

This application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of U.S. Patent Application 09/090,414 filed June 4, 1998. Claims 2-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and claims 17-28 are pending. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and allow this application.

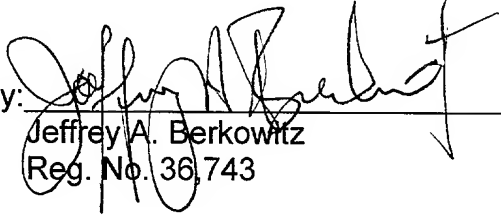
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 19, 2002

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